

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain comprising the steps of:

determining said supply chain;

inputting data concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

displaying, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

2. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said performance indicators displayed in said displaying step comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

3. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 2, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

4. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 3, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

5. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.
6. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 5, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.
7. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.
8. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.
9. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.
10. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.
11. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.
12. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.
13. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.
14. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 13, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.
15. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

16. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

17. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

18. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

19. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of restricting said inputting step to authorized personnel.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain performing steps comprising:

determining said supply chain;

accessing data concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

displaying, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

calculating an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said accessed data.

21. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said performance indicators displayed in said displaying step comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

22. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 21, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

23. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 22, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

24. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

25. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 24, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

26. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

27. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

28. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

29. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

30. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

31. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.

32. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

33. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

34. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

35. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information

36. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

37. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

38. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of restricting said inputting step to authorized personnel.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, comprising:

a module/component determining said supply chain;

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

a module/component accessing data concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

a module/component inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

a module/component displaying, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

a module/component calculating an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said access data.

40. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said performance indicators comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

41. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 40, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

42. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 41, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

43. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

44. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 43, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

45. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

46. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

47. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

48. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

49. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.

50. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.

51. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

52. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

53. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

54. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component providing for input of anecdotal information.

55. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module component linking said evaluation score to a product type.

56. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

57. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component restricting said inputting step to authorized personnel.

58. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain comprising:

a database of information concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

an input interface that inputs a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;



Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

an interface displaying, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

a processor determining said supply chain and producing an evaluation score for at least one supplier based on inputted data.

59. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said performance indicators displayed in said displaying step comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

60. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 59, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

61. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 60, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

62. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

63. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 62, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

64. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor compares said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

65. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

66. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

67. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor compares said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

68. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 67, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.

69. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.

70. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

71. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

72. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

73. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein anecdotal information can be stored in a memory location for selected suppliers.

74. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor links said evaluation score to a product type.

75. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor ranks multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

76. (Previously Presented) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein information may be inputted into said database by authorized personnel.

77. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of providing a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

78. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 77, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

79. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 77, comprising the further step of defining a removal time for a message at which time a message will be automatically removed.

80. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 77, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

81. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of providing a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

82. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 81, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

83. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 81, comprising the further step of defining a removal time for a message at which time a message will be automatically removed.

84. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 81, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

85. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further step of providing a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

86. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 85, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

87. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 85, comprising the further step of defining a removal time for a message at which time a message will be automatically removed.

88. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 85, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

89. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

90. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 89, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

91. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 89, wherein said message to be posted on said bulletin board include a removal time at which time said message will be automatically removed.

92. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 89, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

93. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving data concerning at least one of a plurality of suppliers;

determining a supply chain;

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

receiving a request relating to at least one supplier of said supply chain, the request including a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one supplier; and

generating, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, at least one performance indicator for said supply chain, said at least one performance indicator relating to the at least one supplier with respect to at least one other supplier.

94. (Original) The method as recited in claim 93, further comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

95. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, wherein said at least one performance indicator comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

96. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

97. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

98. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is based on preseason and in-season performance.

99. (Cancel)

100. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 97, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

101. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

102. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

103. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

104. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

105. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said performance indicators are in tabular form.

106. (Original) A method as recited in claim 101, wherein said performance indicators are in graphical form.

107. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

108. (Original) A method as recited in claim 107, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

109. (Original) A method as recited in claim 96, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

110. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

111. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

112. (Original) A method as recited in claim 93, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

113. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain performing steps comprising:

receiving data concerning at least one of a plurality of suppliers;

determining a supply chain;

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

receiving a request relating to at least one supplier of said supply chain, the request including a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one supplier; and

generating, for ~~a~~ at least one selected hierarchical level, at least one performance indicator for said supply chain, said at least one performance indicator relating to the at least one supplier with respect to at least one other supplier.

114. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, performing a further step comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

115. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, wherein said at least one performance indicator comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

116. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

117. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

118. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

119. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

120. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 119, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

121. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

122. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

123. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

124. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

125. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said performance indicators are in tabular form.

126. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 121, wherein said performance indicators are in graphical form.

127. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

128. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 127, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.



Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

129. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 116, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

130. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

131. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

132. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 113, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

133. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, comprising:

a module/component receiving data concerning at least one of a plurality of suppliers;

a module/component determining said supply chain;

a module/component receiving a request relating to at least one supplier of said supply chain, the request including a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one supplier; and

a module/component generating, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, at least one performance indicator for said supply chain, said at least one performance indicator relating to the at least one supplier with respect to at least one other supplier.

134. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, as recited in claim 133,

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

135. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, wherein said at least one performance indicator comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

136. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

137. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

138. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

139. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

140. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 139, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

141. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, further comprising a module/component comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

142. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

143. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

144. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

145. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said performance indicators are in tabular form.

146. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 141, wherein said performance indicators are in graphical form.

147. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

148. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 147, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

149. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 136, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

150. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component providing for input of anecdotal information.

151. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component linking said evaluation score to a product type.

152. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 133, further comprising a module/component ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

153. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

logging into a system that contains data concerning suppliers of a supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of the suppliers;

sending a request for performance information concerning the suppliers;

determining said supply chain;

receiving the performance information; and

evaluating, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, the suppliers for said supply chain based on the performance information.

154. (Original) A method of claim 153, wherein the performance information includes at least one of actuals evaluations, supplier information, teams view evaluations and bulletin board data.

155. (Original) A method as recited in claim 153, further comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

156. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, wherein said performance information comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

157. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

158. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

159. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

160. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

161. (Original) A method as recited in claim 160, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

162. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

163. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

164. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

165. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of comparing said performance information for multiple suppliers.

166. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said performance information is in tabular form.

167. (Original) A method as recited in claim 162, wherein said performance information is in graphical form.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

168. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

169. (Original) A method as recited in claim 168, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

170. (Original) A method as recited in claim 157, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

171. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

172. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

173. (Original) A method as recited in claim 154, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

174. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain performing steps comprising:

logging into a system that contains data concerning suppliers of a supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of the suppliers;

sending a request for performance information concerning the suppliers;

determining said supply chain;

receiving the performance information; and

evaluating, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, the suppliers for said supply chain based on the performance information.

175. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, performing a further step comprising producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

176. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, wherein said performance information comprises at least one of.

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

177. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

178. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

179. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

180. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

181. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 180, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

182. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

183. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

184. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

185. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of comparing said performance information for multiple suppliers.

186. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said performance information is in tabular form.

187. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 182, wherein said performance information is in graphical form.

188. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

189. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 188, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

190. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 177, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

191. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

192. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.



Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

193. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 174, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

194. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, comprising:

a module/component logging into a system that contains data concerning suppliers of said supply chain;

a module/component inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of the suppliers;

a module/component sending a request for performance information concerning the suppliers;

a module/component determining said supply chain;

a module/component receiving the performance information; and

a module/component evaluating, for a at least one selected hierarchical level, the suppliers for supply chain based on the performance information.

195. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for the at least one supplier.

196. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 195, wherein said performance information comprises at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

197. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 196, further comprising a module/component producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

198. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

199. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

200. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

201. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 200, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

202. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, further comprising a module/component comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

203. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

204. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

205. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component comparing said performance information for multiple suppliers.

206. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said performance information is in tabular form.

207. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 202, wherein said performance information is in graphical form.

208. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

209. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 208, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

210. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 197, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

211. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component providing for input of anecdotal information.

212. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component linking said evaluation score to a product type.

Response dated November 9, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004

Application No. 09/864,383

213. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 194, further comprising a module/component ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

214. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
determining a criterion to gauge said performance indicators.

215. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining said supply chain comprises:  
  
selecting said supply chain from a plurality of supply chains.

216. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said performance indicators are presented by a level.

217. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected hierarchical level is selected from the group consisting of a department level, a division level, and a company level.

218. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hierarchical identification comprises the first hierarchical level and the second hierarchical level, further comprising:

comparing the performance of said at least one supplier at a first hierarchical level with another supplier at a second hierarchical level.

219. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
inputting a performance identification of a performance indicator; and  
  
trending the performance indicator over a period of time for said at least one of multiple suppliers.

220. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said selected hierarchical level is selected from the group consisting of a departmental level and a divisional level.